



**US Army Corps
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Baltimore District



NEWS RELEASE

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RELEASE 07-01**

Corps, National Park Service to hold public meeting to address site inspection at Fort Foote

FORT WASHINGTON, MD — The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, in partnership with the National Park Service, will hold a public information meeting on **Monday, March 12 at the Fort Foote Elementary School, 8300 Oxon Hill Road in Fort Washington, Md.**, to discuss the upcoming site inspection at Fort Foote Park. This meeting will provide the public an opportunity to learn more about the site inspection; meet key project team members; and ask questions about the project. The meeting is scheduled from 7:30 - 8:30 p.m., and will begin with a presentation followed by a question and answer session.

The Corps, in coordination with the National Park Service, is conducting a site inspection to determine if any munitions or explosives of concern and/or munitions constituents resulting from the fort's historical use remain on site and pose a threat to human health or the environment. In September 2006, the Corps began a two-phase site inspection at Fort Foote. Phase I of the site inspection was completed in the fall. Based on the findings of Phase I, an intrusive investigation will be conducted as Phase II. The Phase II activities will include unearthing and inspecting selected metallic anomalies, environmental sampling, and assembling a report of our findings. In order to expedite this investigation as well as maintain the integrity of the dig sites, **Fort Foote Park will be closed during Phase II of this investigation, which is scheduled to begin the week of March 19, and continue until the end of March. During this time, the park will be closed weekdays from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., reopening weekdays from 5 p.m. to sundown. The park will be open on weekends.**

In 1862, the U.S. Government began construction of Fort Foote along the Maryland shore of the Potomac River to defend the water approach to the Nation's Capital during the Civil War. Improvements to the site during the Civil War consisted of several warehouses, barracks, officers' quarters, ammunition magazines, bomb proofs, a hospital, stables, a bulkhead, a pier, a boathouse and a cemetery. Fort Foote never saw battle during the Civil War. Following the Civil War, the fort was maintained as a training facility. In 1878, Fort Foote was abandoned as a military fort. The fort was used as a practice area for students from the Army's Engineer School from 1902-1917. During World War I, engineer troops used Fort Foote as a testing area for projectile impacts and as a drop area for testing incendiary devices. Fort Washington used the area for training officer candidates during World War II.

Fort Foote was transferred to the Department of Interior in 1931, as part of the National Park System and continues to provide recreational and education opportunities for more than 50,000 visitors annually.

For questions on the public information meeting or the site inspection, contact Chanel S. Weaver, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District at (410) 962-2809, or Jim Rosenstock, National Park Service, at (202) 690-5161.

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